MARVEL

3

PEPOSE
HILL
LEISTEN
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MOON KNIGHT

ROD REIS

CITY OF THE DEAD

Mercenary Marc Spector died and was reborn in the shadow of Khonshu, the Egyptian god of the moon. Spector became Moon Knight, the Fist of Khonshu, to fight evil. Through his Midnight Mission, he is the defender of all those who travel at night.

MOON KNIGHT

CITY OF THE DEAD

"DEAD RECKONING"

Moon Knight fought and defeated a gang to save a young boy named Khalil Nasser, but not before Khalil was grievously wounded and lapsed into a coma. Moon Knight used mystical means to travel to the City of the Dead to rescue Khalil's spirit. Once there, a surprising ally came to his aid: Layla El-Faouly, his former lover, now empowered as the Scarlet Scarab.

Elsewhere in the City of the Dead, the Jackal Knight is harvesting the hearts of innocent children to trade to criminals. He is also holding Khalil captive and has gathered together a group of Moon Knight's deceased enemies. This Legion of the Unliving attacked Moon Knight and the Scarlet Scarab, who managed to escape while Moon Knight was captured. The Jackal Knight then revealed his true identity--Randall Spector, Moon Knight's own dead brother!

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MY NAME IS *MARC SPECTOR*-- AND I AM NO STRANGER TO DEATH.

DON'T YOU PASS OUT ON ME, SPECTOR!

AS THE FIST OF KHONSHU, I HAVE DEFIED OBLIVION A *THOUSAND* TIMES.

KRAKT

YET DESPITE MY BEST INTENTIONS, I NOW FIND MYSELF TRAPPED IN *THE CITY OF THE DEAD*...

→KAFF← FROM THAT LITTLE *LOVE TAP?*

C'MON-- DIDN'T YOUR DADDY TEACH YOU HOW TO THROW A *PUNCH?*

OH, RIGHT, I FORGOT...YOU NEVER MET YOUR POPS, DID YOU, *MIDNIGHT?*

...AND DOWN HERE... *NO ONE* STAYS BURIED FOREVER.

"NO--WE'RE *ALL* LOOKING FOR OUR VENGEANCE, MOON KNIGHT...

HEH, THAT'S RICH--FIRST YOU KILL ME. NOW YOU TRY TO *INSULT* ME?

TOO BAD I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE YOU LEFT DYING FOR SOME *PAYBACK.*

"...AND THERE AIN'T *NOBODY* COMING TO SAVE YOUR SORRY HIDE."

SO HERE'S WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN, SPECTOR-- WE'RE EACH GONNA TAKE TURNS *BREAKING* YOU...

...AND THEN WE'RE GONNA DUMP WHAT'S LEFT TO *AMMUT THE DEVOURER*-- CAPISCE?

AND-- *RRNN*--WHAT ABOUT THE BOY?

DOES MY BROTHER HAVE *KHALIL NASSER* ON THIS SHIP?

GOTTA KEEP HIM TALKING-- JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER...

AND... *BINGO.*

YEAH, SURE-- WE GOT THE KID IN HIS OWN COMFY CELL DOWN HERE.

NOT THAT *YOU'RE* GONNA LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO SEE HIM AGAIN.

THAT'S FUNNY...

...I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TELL *YOU* THE SAME THING.

HER NAME IS *LAYLA EL-FAOULY*-- AND I LOVED HER UNTIL THE DAY SHE *DIED.*

IT'S LIKE I SAID, MARC-- THIS REALLY WAS JUST LIKE *DAMASCUS.*

YOU SERVING AS *THE DISTRACTION* FOR OUR ENEMIES...

...WHILE I CIRCLE BACK TO TAKE CARE OF THE *CLEANUP.*

SHIIIING

NOW REBORN AS THE *SCARLET SCARAB*... SHE'S THE DEADLIEST WOMAN IN *THE DUAT.*

AH, YOU GOTTA BE *KIDDING* ME--!

FTHUMP

YET WE'RE ONLY A PAIR OF *EX-MERCENARIES*-- AND OUTSIDE AWAITS AN ENTIRE ARMY.

→KAFF← THANKS FOR THE SAVE. CAN YOUR *SCARAB* HELP US EXTRACT KHALIL?

NO--MY POWERS ONLY WORK WITHIN THE CITY'S *WALLS.*

BUT THEN I REMEMBER THE CITY OF THE DEAD IS *PURELY PSYCHOACTIVE...*

THEN WE NEED ANOTHER WAY OUT... YOU REMEMBER THAT WARLORD WE TOOK OUT IN UGANDA?

IT TOOK THREE DAYS TO SMOKE HIM OUT OF HIS *ARMORY*-- WHAT MADE YOU THINK OF THAT?

AND IF THERE'S ONE THING I'M GOOD AT...IT'S COMING UP WITH ***BAD*** IDEAS.

BECAUSE I NEED GUNS...

...***LOTS*** OF GUNS.

CH-CHAK

DEAD RECKONING

WHEN KHONSHU MADE ME HIS *AVATAR*, IT DIDN'T CLEANSE THE BLOOD FROM MY HANDS.

SO, WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO AFTER THE JACKAL KNIGHT'S SCORE, *TAURUS?*

BACK TO MY OLD HABITS, *MASTER SNIPER*-- POLITICS, INVESTMENTS... THE OCCASIONAL *MURDER.*

QUITE THE CONTRARY-- MORE THAN ONCE, I'VE SENT EVIL MEN TO AN *EARLY GRAVE.*

I DUNNO ABOUT YOU GUYS...BUT I WANNA START A FAMILY.

YOU INTERESTED, *PLASMA?*

NOT IF YOU WERE THE LAST FREAK SHOW ON EARTH, *CHAINSAW.*

NOW THE JACKAL KNIGHT'S SORCERY HAS BROUGHT THEM BACK FOR RETRIBUTION...

I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S TAKING *MIDNIGHT* SO LONG...

AFTER WHAT HE DID TO ME, MARC SPECTOR SHALL DIE AT THE HANDS OF *THE BLACK SPECTRE.*

...I SEE THIS AFFORDS ME A SINGULAR OPPORTUNITY.

I WOULDN'T WAIT FOR DEAR OLD *JEFF...*

MMF--!

FWUMP

BAM

IT'S LIKE MY THERAPIST ALWAYS TELLS ME...

...THERE'S NOTHING LIKE GETTING A SENSE OF *CLOSURE.*

...HE'S *INDISPOSED.*

BRAKKABRAKKABRAKKA

THEY SAY THE ONLY WAY TO FACE *TRUE OBLIVION* HERE IS THROUGH *AMMUT THE DEVOURER.*

NOT *BAD,* MASTER SNIPER...

LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU AIM WITHOUT A *KNEECAP!*

BLAMM BLAMM BLAMM

NNF--!

WHY WON'T YOU JUST *BURN* ALREADY?!

FROOSH

THESE REVENANTS HAVE GROWN *CARELESS,* KNOWING THEY CANNOT BE KILLED...

...BUT WE CAN STILL REMIND THEM THAT THERE ARE PUNISHMENTS FAR WORSE THAN *DEATH.*

BETTER THAN YOU HAVE *TRIED,* PLASMA...

THRAKK

...AND I'M STILL HERE!

TOGETHER, WE PUSH THE *LEGION OF THE UNLIVING* BACK ON THEIR HEELS...

TIME TO *DIE*, SPECTOR-- *NNF!*

WHUDD

NOT EVEN IN YOUR *BEST* AFTERLIFE, CHAINSAW.

...YET THERE ARE SOME WHO REFUSE TO GO DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT.

DAMMIT-- MY M16 WON'T PIERCE TAURUS' HIDE!

BLAMM BLAMM BLAMM

BUT LEAVE IT TO *LAYLA* TO REMIND ME THAT NO MATTER WHAT THEY THROW AT US...

MARC, DARLING--THE M16 IS A LITTLE *PEDESTRIAN*, DON'T YOU THINK?

THE *NEXT* TIME YOU TAKE A GIRL OUT...

...NOBODY OUTCLASSES *THE KARNAK COWBOYS.*

...MAKE SURE YOU BRING HER SOME *REAL* FIREWORKS.

KTHOOOOM

OF COURSE, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE OUR MERCENARY YEARS...

→KAFF← I'M N-NOT *SCARED* OF YOU, MOON KNIGHT!

Y-YOU MAY HAVE KILLED ME *ONCE*...BUT NOW IT'S TIME FOR *BLACK SPECTRE* TO RETURN THE FAVOR!

AND DOWN HERE, IT'S ALL TOO *EASY* TO GET CAUGHT UP IN THE PAST.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU TWO NEED A *CATCH-UP*--DO YOU WANT ANY HELP?

NAH-- I'VE GOT THIS *HANDLED.*

SO I'D BE DOING MYSELF A *DISSERVICE* IF I DIDN'T PROVE TO HER...

THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH *SUPER VILLAINS* THESE DAYS...

...THAT OLD DOGS CAN STILL LEARN *NEW TRICKS.*

...THEY'RE ALWAYS BRINGING KNIVES TO A *CHAINSAW* FIGHT.

RRRRRRM

YET NO MATTER HOW MUCH I'VE CHANGED, ONE THING HAS REMAINED THE SAME.

KLATCH

I ALREADY TOLD YOU, YOU JACKAL-FACED *CREEP*...

...WHATEVER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, I'M *NEVER* GONNA HELP YOU!

I MAY HAVE BEEN A BAD MAN WHO DID SOME *BAD THINGS*...

SO GO AHEAD AND TAKE YOUR MAGIC TRICKS, AND YOU CAN *SHOVE* 'EM--

KLANK

...BUT GOD AS MY WITNESS... I'LL NEVER STOP TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR IT.

HEY, KID...

YOU READY TO BUST OUT OF THIS JOINT?

MISTER KNIGHT!

AND SEEING THAT KHALIL'S STILL BREATHING...IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I ACTUALLY STAND A *CHANCE*.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT-- MISTER KNIGHT, YOU *FOUND* ME!

YOU'RE A *TRAVELER OF THE NIGHT*, KHALIL...

...AND THAT MEANS I'LL *ALWAYS* COME FOR YOU.

NOW, C'MON-- LET'S GET YOU OUTTA HERE, KID...

MARC-- YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO SEE THIS.

THE JACKAL KNIGHT'S PLAN... IT GOES DEEPER THAN WE EVER IMAGINED.

"IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE ANYONE HAS SEEN OSIRIS, THE GOD OF DEATH AND REBIRTH.

"WITHOUT HIM, CORRUPTION IN THE CITY HAS RUN RAMPANT... AND I THINK I KNOW WHY.

"THESE TOMES SAY OSIRIS TRAVELS TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING ONCE A GENERATION...

"...AND SELECTS A MORTAL VESSEL TO BECOME HIS NEWEST HOST.

"BUT THE SONS OF THE JACKAL FOUND HIM AND TRIED TO TAKE OSIRIS' POWER AS THEIR OWN...

"...THAT IS...UNTIL THE FIST OF KHONSHU INTERVENED."

THAT'S THE REASON WHY YOU'RE HERE, MARC.

I THINK KHALIL IS OSIRIS' LATEST HOST.

THAT'S WHEN I HEAR A *VOICE* AS COLD AS THE GRAVE...

I MARVEL AT YOUR POWERS OF *DEDUCTION*, MY DEAR...

MY BROTHER... *RANDALL SPECTOR.*

YEARS AGO, I SLIT HIS *THROAT* AND WATCHED HIM *DROWN.*

ONLY NOW HE'S RETURNED...AS *THE JACKAL KNIGHT.*

AND HERE I THOUGHT MARC WAS SIMPLY A *MINDLESS* ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION...

JUST A *RABID DOG* IN DESPERATE NEED OF BEING PUT DOWN.

WE KNEW EACH OTHER BETTER THAN *ANYONE*-- AND I CAN ALREADY SEE HOW THIS FIGHT WILL END...

KHALIL-- WHATEVER HAPPENS NEXT, I WANT YOU TO *RUN.*

I DIVE IN GUNS BLAZING TO GET MY BROTHER'S ATTENTION.

IF YOU WANT THAT KID, RANDALL...YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO GO THROUGH *ME!*

BLAMM BLAMM BLAMM

SPLAKK

SPANGG

SHRAKT

OH, MARC...

AND IT WORKS-- FOR ALL OF *FIVE SECONDS.*

THAT'S *EXACTLY* WHAT I INTEND TO DO.

THAT'S IT, SPECTOR-- ALL YOU NEED IS TO BUY LAYLA SOME TIME...

LET HIM GO, YOU SON OF A--*NNF!*

...EXCEPT RANDALL'S ALWAYS HAD A FEW SURPRISES UP HIS SLEEVE.

AH, CLEVER-- SHE IS CERTAINLY A FEISTY ONE!

STRUGGLE ALL YOU'D LIKE, BROTHER...

NOT EVEN YOU CAN WITHSTAND THE POWER OF A *THOUSAND* ANGRY GHOSTS.

GOTTA FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS--NEED TO TRY AND *STALL* HIM...

WH-WHO DID THIS TO YOU, RANDALL?

YOU LEFT ME TO DIE IN A WATERY GRAVE, MARC...

DID YOU *REALLY* THINK I WAS JUST GOING TO LIE BACK AND REST IN PEACE?

"NO--EVEN *MY DEMISE* WAS REMARKABLY SHORT-LIVED...

"...WHEN I BECAME AN UNWILLING TEST SUBJECT OF *THE BLASPHEMY CARTEL.*

"THEY TURNED ME INTO A *REVENANT*--A GHOSTLY VESSEL OF UNHOLY TERRORS...

"...UNTIL I WAS CAST INTO THE ABYSS BY *THE SORCERER SUPREME.**

*AS SEEN IN *DOCTOR STRANGE #4.* --TOM

"I AWOKE IN *THE CITY OF THE DEAD*...AND PLEDGED MYSELF TO THE DEATHBRINGER *ANUBIS.*

"BUT YOU KNOW WHAT SUSTAINED ME THROUGH ALL THOSE YEARS OF HORROR AND *AGONY...?*"

IT WAS THE IDEA OF ***BREAKING*** YOU THE SAME WAY YOU'D BROKEN ME.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, BROTHER--WOULD IT HURT ***MORE*** IF I TORTURED YOUR LITTLE STRUMPET FIRST?

IF YOU ***TOUCH*** HER, RANDALL, THERE'S NO PLACE IN ***HEAVEN OR HELL*** YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ESCAPE FROM ME.

HA--YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HELL IS, MARC...NOT ONE ***DAMNED*** BIT.

"HELL ISN'T FIRE OR BRIMSTONE OR EVEN THE JAWS OF AMMUT...

"...IT'S FALLING THROUGH THE ENDLESS BLACK...AND KNOWING IT WAS YOUR OWN ***FLESH AND BLOOD*** THAT BETRAYED YOU."

YOU KNOW, YOUR SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS HAS REALLY GIVEN ME A CHANGE OF HEART, MARC.

BECAUSE NOW THAT I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT...I ***REALLY*** WANT TO DO YOU FIRST.

I PRAY FOR LAYLA'S ***FORGIVENESS*** AS I BRACE MYSELF FOR THE END.

BUT THAT'S WHEN I SEE ***KHALIL*** APPEAR FROM THE SHADOWS...

N-NO--STOP IT...

AND FOR THE *FIRST TIME* IN HIS LIFE... HIS EYES ARE WIDE OPEN.

YOU CAN'T HAVE THEM, YOU MONSTER!

NOT ON MY WATCH!

SHRAKOOW

KRAKADOOOOOOOOOOM

THE BLAST THREW RANDALL INTO *THE DESERT*--GOTTA GET OUT BEFORE THE SHIP *COLLAPSES*...

KHALIL-- HOW DID YOU *DO* THAT?

JUST W-WANTED TO *HELP*, M-MISTER KNIGHT...

B-BUT NOW... I'M NOT FEELING SO GOOD...

...BEFORE THINGS TAKE AN EVEN *GREATER* TURN FOR THE WORSE.

OH, DEAR LORD--MARC, HE'S SEIZING UP!

"THE STRAIN ON HIS SYSTEM-- *KHALIL'S BODY* IS RUNNING OUT OF TIME!"

BECAUSE KNOWING MY LUCK, IT'S NEVER ENOUGH TO ESCAPE *THE FRYING PAN...*

YEAH-- ABOUT THAT, LAYLA...

KHALIL'S LITTLE *SURGE* DIDN'T JUST TAKE OUT MY BROTHER...

...IT SERVED AS A *DINNER BELL.*

RMBB

BBBB

...NOT WHEN YOU COULD JUST AS EASILY BE THROWN INTO *THE FIRE.*

WE'VE AWAKENED AMMUT THE DEVOURER!

I SEE A FLASH OF ELDRITCH ENERGY ON THE GROUND...

CLEARLY, RANDALL AND HIS GOONS AREN'T STICKING AROUND TO *WATCH.*

WHICH MEANS LAYLA, KHALIL AND I ARE ALL THAT'S LEFT ON THE DEVOURER'S MENU.

LAYLA--I NEED YOU TO TAKE KHALIL TO *THE GATES OF OSIRIS.*

NO, THAT'S *IMPOSSIBLE*-- WE'LL NEVER GET CLEAR OF AMMUT IN TIME!

YOU CAN...IF SOMEONE SERVES AS A *DISTRACTION.*

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? NO, MARC--YOU *CAN'T* DO THIS...

YET AS THE SECONDS WIND DOWN, LAYLA KNOWS I'M RIGHT...

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--FOR YEARS, ALL I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT WAS HOW I COULD'VE SAVED YOU...

BECAUSE IF THERE'S ONE THING I'M GOOD AT...IT'S COMING UP WITH *BAD* IDEAS.

AND NOW THAT I FINALLY GET MY CHANCE...?

I COULDN'T IMAGINE A *BETTER WAY* TO GO OUT.

STAY ALIVE, MARC--I'LL COME BACK FOR YOU AS SOON AS I GET KHALIL SAFE.

I'LL HOLD YOU TO IT-- NOW GET OUT OF HERE AND DON'T LOOK BACK...

WE DON'T STICK AROUND TO SAY GOODBYE...

THE TEARS IN LAYLA'S EYES DO ALL THE *TALKING* FOR HER.

STAY WITH ME, KHALIL...

COME HELL OR HIGH WATER, WE'RE GONNA GET YOU HOME!

SHE TAKES TO THE SKIES AS FAST AS SHE CAN.

BUT NOT EVEN THE BLADE OF TAWERET CAN OUTRACE THE DEVOURER'S HUNGER...

HSSSSSSS

...AT LEAST NOT WITHOUT *SOMEONE* ELSE RUNNING INTERFERENCE.

KRRRRRNCH

BASED ON SHEER SIZE, I'D BET THE SHIP WEIGHS AROUND *THREE HUNDRED TONS...*

HRRRRRN...?

...MORE THAN ENOUGH TO GIVE THE DEVOURER A MEAL SHE'LL *NEVER* FORGET.

THAT'S RIGHT, AMMUT...

YOU WANT A PIECE OF ME?

YET THE PLAN ONLY WORKS IF SHE'S FOCUSED ON ME...

RRRRAAARRGH!

THEN COME AND GET IT!

AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO BE SURE LAYLA AND THE KID GET AWAY CLEAN.

NO-- MARC, LOOK OUT!

MY NAME IS MARC SPECTOR--AND I AM NO STRANGER TO *DEATH.*

GIVE 'EM *HELL,* LAYLA...

BUT IF *TODAY* IS THE DAY WHEN I FINALLY MEET MY END...

AND IF YOU HAPPEN TO SEE *MY BROTHER* OUT THERE...

...TELL HIM THAT, IN THIS LIFE OR THE NEXT...

...THEN I'D BETTER MAKE IT A GOOD ONE.

...I'M STILL COMING FOR HIM.

NEXT: IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST!

NEXT:

MOON KNIGHT

CITY OF THE DEAD